THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The production of Foodgrains and Rice during 1991-92 is estimated at 167.06 and 73.66 million tonnes respectively. The likely kharif production of foodgrains and rice during 1992-93 is estimated to be 100.0 and 65.0 million tonnes respectively.

As per the latest data available for the year 1991, the average net demand, as indicated by availability of foodgrains and rice for human consumption (excluding demand for seed, feed and wastage) is estimated to be 158.10 and 70.33 million tonnes respectively.

The steps taken to increase the production and availability of foodgrains include implementation of Integrated Programme for Rice Development, Special Foodgrains Production —Wheat, Special Foodgrains Production Programme—Maize and Millets, National Pulses Development Programme and Special Food Production Programme for Pulses, etc.

National Wheat Policy

811. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Roller Flour Milling Industry has recently urged Government to evolve a National Wheat Policy, as per the newsitem entitled "Millers for evolving National Wheat Policy", which appeared in the *Times of India*, dated the 12th September, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c) A news item appeared in the *Times of India*, dated the 12th September, 1992 in which it was stated, *inter-alia*, that the Roller Flour Milling Industry has urged the Government to evolve a National Wheat Policy to ensure uninterrupted supply of wheat to the millers. The Roller Flour Milling Industry was delicensed and decontrolled in 1986 and since then the Government is under no obligation to supply wheat to the Roller Flour Mills. As such, the question of formulation of a National Wheat Policy to ensure uninterrupted supply of wheat to the Roller Flour Mills does not arise.

Division of Maharashtra into three Zones for the purpose of Levy Sugar

812. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state what decision Government have taken about dividing Maharashtra into three zones instead of present two for the purpose of levy sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : The question of bifurcation of South Maharashtra zone into two zones has been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) who have been asked to undertake a fresh investigation into the cost structure of the sugar industry for fixing the levy sugar prices for the sugar years 1993-94 to 1995-96.

Problems faced by sugar factories in Maharashtra

813. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem being faced by the 38 new sugar factories in Maharashtra to which letters of intent have been given;

(b) what is the progress made by the Committee appointed to take review for reducing the project cost of these factories; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the suggestions made by the Government of Maharashtra in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c) Keeping in view the problems faced by the new sugar factories

including the new sugar factories of Maharashtra State and the recent increase in project cost, formulation of a new incentive scheme is under consideration of the Government.

The Committee appointed to review the standard list of equipments of a new sugar factory with a view to reducing the project cost has submitted its report which has been accepted by the Government and its recommendations have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments.

Concession to Sugar Factories in Maharashtra

814. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to Unstarrted Question 2558 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 13th March, 1992 and state what decision Government have since taken about the Government of Maharashtra's proposal that the new sugar factories located in the high recovery zone should be given concession of 100 per cent free sale sugar for 10 years, the factories falling in medium recovery zone for 12 years and the low recovery zone for 15 years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : Formulation of an Incentive Scheme is under consideration of the Government.

Fixing of Sugar Levy Price

815. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state what decision Government have taken on the request of the State Government of Maharashtra to include the expenditure incurred on harvesting and transportation of sugarcane while fixing the levy price of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : The question of inclusion of the expenditure incurred on harvesting and transportation while fixing the levy price of sugar has been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) who have been asked to undertake a fresh investigation into the cost structure of the sugar industry for fixing the levy sugar prices for the sugar years 1993-94 to 1995-96.

Sale of Sugar by new Sugar Units

816. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to allow new sugar units to sell 88 per cent produce in the market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what would be the impact of this decision on the existing sugar units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c) Formulation of a new incentive scheme to cover new sugar factories and expansion projects is presently under the consideration of Government.

Warehouses in Maharashtra

817. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of warehouses under the Central Warehousing Corporation in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) what is their total capacity; and

(c) what is their turnover, quantity and value-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The Central Warehousing Corporation, as on 1-10-92, has been operating 66 Warehouses and 4 Container Freight Stations in Maharashtra.

(b) 7.60 lakh tonnes.

(c) The capacity utilisation of the Corporation in Maharashtra, as on 1-10-1992, was 66%. The value of the stocks held in storage on that date was Rs. 174.65 crores.